

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Kindly replace the paragraph bridging pages 7 and 8 with the following amended paragraph:

At the beginning of the setting and production operation represented in Figs. 2A and 2B, first, in a setting phase, during a step 100 one or more properties of documents loaded into the system are registered. This is done in different ways. Documents coming from the document feeder stations and the printer are scanned by a scanner 63 which cooperates with transport rollers 27, 28, 29, 30 after they are individually transported along the scanner 63 during the start-up phase. Envelopes in the envelope feeder stations [[72, 73]] are scanned by cameras 72, 73. These are simple cameras linked to the control unit 65 through a USB bus. The registration of properties of the documents can be carried out in many alternative ways, for instance through mechanical or capacitive scanning of the thickness and/or the length (this last in combination with controlled transport of documents along the sensor). It is also possible to observe properties of all postal items to be processed with a camera before they are placed in the system. Then, however, it is preferably signaled to the system in which stations the respective documents are loaded. It is further also possible, when registering the properties of documents to be processed, to make use of data present in the memory 651, regarding postal items present in the system. If, for instance, since the loading of documents of a particular type in a particular station no 'station empty' signal has been received for that station, it can be assumed there are still documents of that type in that station. The registration of data regarding properties of postal items therefore can also proceed wholly or partly from the memory 651. The registration of properties of documents to be processed

can further also be done by extracting information from the print stream which is eventually intended for the printer 2. Thus, a typical property that identifies an invoice can be the presence of the word "total" at a fixed position on the last sheet.